JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

1. NAME:

Mr. Tommy L. Stanford

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

307 Main St.

PO Box 3321

Greenwood, SC 29648

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(office): 864-229-3987

2. Date and Place of Birth:

1957; Montgomery, AL

3. Are you a citizen of SC? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married on October 6, 1984, to Barbara D. Stanford. Never divorced: two children.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) Alabama State University, 1976-80, BA;
 - (b) Howard University School of Law, 1980-83, JD.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

SC, 1986; I took the exam 4 times.

9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

Alabama State University:

- (a) Spanish Club President, 1978 and 1979;
- (b) History and Political Science Club, 1979 and 1980.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

	Conference/CLE Name	Date(s)
(a)	Attorney ECF	01/11/06;
(b)	Children Issues in Family Court	03/17/06; 12/13/00;
(c)	Family Court Bench & Bar	12/01/06;
(d)	Probate issues and Criminal Practice	02/23/07;
(e)	Family Court, Bench & Bar	12/07/07;
(f)	2008 SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/05/08;
(a)	Ethics Judicial Panel Seminar III	12/06/08:

- (h) Plaintiff's Personal Injury
 (i) Plaintiff's Personal Injury, Start to Finish
 (j) Best Interest of Children, 2011GAL Training/Update
 (k) Master In Trial, Winning Your Trial Through Witnesses
- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

I have lectured at a 1989 SC Bar Consumer Law program.

- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1986;
 - (b) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 1986.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
 - (a) Legal Services of Western Carolina, Family Law, Social Security, SSI, Consumer, Wills, Living Wills, and Power Of Attorney; 1983-93.
 - (b) Stanford & Associates, PC; Family Law, Social Security Disability, Criminal, Real Estate, Consumer, Civil, Wills and Estates; 1993-Present
- 14. (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

I have done numerous of divorce cases, including contested and uncontested cases, on all of the statutory grounds. I have litigated the issues of equitable division of real and personal property, marital debts, marital assets, and alimony. I have litigated custody cases, served as Guardian Ad Litem, visitation and child support cases. I have done DSS and Private adoptions. I have experience in DSS abuse and neglect cases, termination of parental rights and juvenile justice including plea agreements, contracts and reception and evaluation. I have worked extensively in the field of family law.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, <u>Super Lawyers</u>, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I do not have a rating with a legal organization.

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?

(a) federal: 1%;

(b) state: 99%.

17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?

(a) civil: 25%;

(b) criminal: 15%;

(c) domestic: 40%;

(d) other: 20%.

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

(a) jury: 10%;

(b) non-jury: 90%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole counsel

- 19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
 - (a) DSS v Grace Williams, et.al This case was significant because mother and father were accused of physical abuse based on various stages of past broken bones, brittle bone was an issue, The GAL agreed that children should return to her. Most cases like this, GAL is not for the mother.
 - (b) <u>Brown v Brown</u> A divorce, custody, division of property, and retirement. This case was important because of all the different issues that were involved, and unique from standpoint that mother tried to commit suicide, gave child suicide note.
 - (c) Robert Hill v State of SC, PCR case in circuit court regarding whether PCR appellate attorney should have argued and brief malice issue. The malice issue was argued, few months later in another case and now Court accepted the argument, which made new case law.
 - (d) <u>SC DSS v Barbara Nation, et.al.</u>, case was significant because of the removal issues, children witnessing the sexual abuse of their mother, and one child stating she was rape. The facts and issues, as well as protecting the young children made make this case different.
 - (e) Rouse v State of SC, case is significant because Petitioner case was dismissed for not timely filing PCR. I argue that because of mental issues, he did not have capacity to timely file, Judge on reconsideration said, submit evident of mental illness and being in mental hospital, Petitioner had stated to correctional officials that he would much rather kill himself; he did commit suicide.
- 20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled.

I have not filed a civil appeal.

21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled.

I have not filed a criminal appeal.

- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? No
- 23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. N/A
- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. N/A
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. N/A
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? NO
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?

Yes; Preacher, I pastor a church, (Mars Hill Baptist), 1986-Present

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?

Yes. I along with one other person have a small LLC that rent land, a house and a building. I am the secretary/treasure. I along with him make the deposit, I do minor repairs and maintenance.

- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. NO
- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? NO
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?

I have not had a tax lien filed against me personally. I have not defaulted on a student loan, nor have I filed bankruptcy. A SC employer withholding tax lien was filed against the law office in 2006 for one quarter, and it was satisfactorily resolved and paid the same year. A SC state employer withholding tax lien was filed in 2012 against the law office for the September 2011 employer tax quarter. I spoke to the SC Dept. of Revenue regarding this matter, explained that payments had been submitted and paid in 2011. I provided them with the confirmation of payment number (1619425612), and

- they are supposed to withdraw this lien and update the records. I did have to pay a late fee and interest.
- 34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?

I was a Defendant in a lawsuit regarding a Discovery Card, in which there was a dispute as to the amount owed. The amount of the lawsuit was \$3,287.00. The law suit was filed in 1999 and we resolved it and settled the matter without appearing in court in 2001. A motion to dismiss was filed, I consented, and an Order of Dismissal with prejudice was entered.

- 36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? No Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No
- 37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance?

 Yes, beginning in 1993.
- 38. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No
- 39. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No
- 40. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated."

I do not have any knowledge.

- 41. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign."

 I do not have any knowledge.
- 42. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.
- 43. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None
- 44. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No. Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.

- 45. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No
- 46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No
- 48. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) SC State Bar;
 - (b) American Bar Association;
 - (c) Greenwood County Bar; Secretary/Treasurer and President;
 - (d) SC Black Lawyers.
- 49. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
 - (a) Greenwood Christian School Board, Chairman of the Board;
 - (b) Gwd-Ninety Six NAACP, 1st Vice President;
 - (c) SC House of Representative, Letter and Accommodation, 25 years as a Pastor;
 - (d) Gwd. County Council, Edith Childs, Dist. 1, 25 years as a Pastor.
- 50. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

I am a loyal dedicated hard worker. I treat people with respect. I believe in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you will have them, Do unto you". I come to the table as one who has a servant heart, servant personality and a servant's mentality. I enjoy working with people and I work with people from all walks of life. I have worked as a public servant all of my adult life. I have a respect, love and dedication for the legal profession and the rule of law. I bring to the table more than 29 years of working in this state in the legal arena. I also bring over 30 years of working as a minister, pastor, community worker, and public servant. The totality of my experience, my ability to work with fellow attorneys, clerks, Judges, law enforcements and people affords me the opportunity to be a good Judge that is respected and give respect to all that come before me or in my present, when on or off the bench.

- 51. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
 - (a) Matt Howard First Citizens Bank PO Box 1545

Greenwood, SC 29648 (864) 388-7896

- (b) Frank W. Cannon Legal Services 316 W. Cambridge Av. Greenwood, SC (864)223-4879
- (c) Michael A. Butler 421 E. Henrietta Av. Greenwood, SC (864) 223-4801 or (864) 554-0106
- (d) Martin L. Duff 129 Oxford Rd Greenwood, SC 29649 (864) 980-0018
- (e) La'Keabian "Keabii"Henderson PO Box 25908 Greenville, SC 29607 (864)-862-2800 or (864) 444-8655

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: Tommy L. Stanford Date: August 26, 2012

TOMMY L. STANFORD LAW FIRM, PC

Attorney At Law

Phone: (864) 229-3987

307 Main Street Greenwood, SC 29646

Fax: (864) 229-6304

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 3321

Greenwood, SC 29648

November 6, 2012

Dear Ms. Bonnie Anzelma:

Please find enclosed the names of judges, attorneys, and former clients that are willing to speak to you, relevant to my experience and service as an attorney.

1. **The Honorable William K. Charles, Jr.** - Retired Judge, Family Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit **Phone**: (864) 223-8808

2. **Townes Jones, Esquire** - Former Solicitor of the Eighth Circuit **Phone**: (864) 223-1111 **Cell Phone**: (864) 993-8685

3. Randall Williams, Esquire

Phone: (864) 227-9156 **Cell Phone**: (864) 941-1978

4. Gary Williams, Esquire Cell Phone: (864) 923-9395

5. Billy J. Garrett, Jr.

Phone: (864) 223-8000 Cell Phone: (864) 554-0963

6. Mr. Ulysses Brown - Former Client

Phone: (864) 227-1138 **Cell Phone**: (864) 538-9386

7. Reverand Marvin Hughes - Former Client and person who has referred clients to me Phone: (864) 554-5084

Sincerely,

Tommy L. Stanford Candidate, Family Court Judge Eighth Circuit, Seat 3